

In an effort to determine the putative parents, eight samples of primocanes and floricanes were collected and growth habit notes made for each one individually. Later various measurements were made. The following characteristics were noted: growth habit from trailing to doming to erect up to 2½'; armature consisting of stiff prickles, acicular prickles, bristles and glands, length of longest prickle up to 5 mm., number of all types of armature combined from 200 to 800 per dm.; primocane leaflets uniformly dull, subcoriaceous, length from 5.5 to 7.0 cm., number of leaflets ranging from 3 to 5, ratio of width to length from .65 to .8, broadest part of leaf at the middle or well above the middle; inflorescence resembling *R. hispidus* or *R. setosus*.

On the basis of these characters it was not possible to form a positive conclusion as to the origin of the blackberry. The leaflet shape and number seemed to be derived from *R. hispidus*, the armature from *R. elegantulus* and *R. setosus*. Other characters could have come from one or more of these three species, all of which were in the vicinity. Extensive field observations have convinced me that these species hybridize frequently.

A specimen of this blackberry has been deposited in the Herbarium of the University of New Hampshire.

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WESTERN PLAINS PLANTS IN NORTHERN ILLINOIS¹ — A number of western plants are established on a gravel bluff prairie, known locally as Bell Bowl prairie, in southern Winnebago County, in Greater Rockford Airport a few miles south of Rockford, Illinois. They can be divided into two groups.

One group is composed of annual or perennial plants that are being spread by seed and are found over the county and over the state. Among them are such more or less common species as *Agropyron smithii* Rydb., *Froelichia gracilis* Moq., *Solanum rostratum* Dunal, *Artemisia dracunculoides* Pursh

¹Contribution of the Evelyn I. Fernald Memorial Herbarium of Rockford College.

and *Ratibida columnifera* (Nutt.) Wooton & Standl. They are now widespread and their presence here does not require any special comment.

The other group is made up of the following perennials which have a number of peculiarities in common. *Poa arachnifera* Torr. is found elsewhere in the county in connection with highway shoulder seeding (Fell, 1955) but on Bell Bowl prairie it does not have the appearance of having been planted nor of spreading except by stolons. *Buchloë dactyloides* (Nutt.) Engelm. (buffalo grass) is reported by Jones (1958) as having been collected recently by V. H. Chase in Peoria County 110 miles south of us. In Bell Bowl it occurs in several patches each about 10 feet in diameter. It is spreading by stolons. *Chloris verticillata* Nutt. (windmill grass) is credited to the same collector from the same area by Jones & Fuller (1955). With us it grows in a number of patches none of which is more than two feet in diameter. It produces viable seed abundantly but does not seem to be spreading by this means. *Carex praegracilis* W. Boott and *C. stenophylla* Wahl. var. *enervis* (C. A. Mey.) Kükenth. (*C. eleocharis* Bailey) have been previously commented upon (Fell, 1958). They produce seed sparingly and seem to reproduce only vegetatively. *Schrankia nuttallii* (DC.) Standl. (sensitive briar) was collected by Francis McDonald in the Peoria area in 1903 according to Jones & Fuller (l.c.). On Bell Bowl prairie it produces flowers but no seeds were found.

None of the above plants are recorded otherwise than as mentioned from Illinois so the presence of all of them here in a small area, a gravel bluff one half mile long, is a matter of interest. This is particularly true because of their absence from the numerous other prairie patches in the county that furnish the same type of habitat (Fell and Fell, 1956), dry gravel hills or bluffs exposed to the prevailing westerly winds, which are from the north in winter and from the south in summer. If they are natives they are relics of dying populations. This is suggested somewhat by their poor reproduction by seed. It seems unlikely that all these plants could have been growing in this vicinity a hundred years ago and some of them not have been found by so active a

collector as M. S. Bebb. Another possible explanation of their being here is the fact that this area was within Camp Grant during World War I and this particular tract was an important remount station and trench warfare training center. The numerous horses and mules were shipped here from the west of the Mississippi River as was also hay and straw in bales for use as bedding and in making ramparts for the trenches and effigies for bayonet practice. These shipments may have served as transports for the seed of these plains plants. The ones that reproduce readily by seed here have become disseminated, the others have stayed where they were originally introduced. — EGBERT W. FELL.²

LITERATURE CITED

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²Dr. Egbert W. Fell died on July 16, 1960.

ADDITIONS TO THE FLORA OF ILLINOIS. — Field and herbarium studies in Illinois continue to add to the number of species known from that State. As has been the situation for the past six or seven years, many of the additions are native species rather than adventives or incidental waifs.

All specimens cited are deposited in SIU, except that of *Agrimonia microcarpa* which is in MO.

Paspalum lentiferum Lam. A large colony of this southern grass occurs in a semi-swampy roadside ditch near Karnak in Pulaski County. Considerable similarity exists between this species and the southeastern *P. boscianum*. The stramineous fruit distinguishes *P. lentiferum*. The fact that the southern Illinois station is several hundred miles from the nearest known station would seem to indicate an adventive status for this species, although the marshy situation simulates its natural habitat.